

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A coating composition, said composition comprising:
 - (1) a polyamide-amic acid (PAA), said PAA comprising amide-amic acid units each comprising a carboxyl group, and in addition to said PAA;
 - (2) a neutralizing agent capable of neutralizing a carboxyl group, and in addition to said PAA and said neutralizing agent;
 - (3) a directly linkable molecule, said molecule being one that is linkable to a carboxyl group; and
 - (4) water.

2. (Currently amended) A coating composition of Claim 1 wherein the directly linkable molecule is a cross-linker capable of being simultaneously linked to both the carboxyl group of the PAA and to a molecule other than the PAA [[, such that one molecule of the directly linkable molecule can form covalent links to two other molecules and both such links can exist at the same time]].

3. (Withdrawn) A coating composition of Claims 1 or 2 wherein the directly linkable molecule is a PAA.

4. (Currently amended) A coating composition of Claims 1 or 2 wherein the directly linkable molecule is selected from the group consisting of a [[functionalized]] siloxane, a

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[[functionalized]] polysiloxane, an amine, a polyamine-imine, an oxazoline, a polyoxozaline, and a [[functionalized]] polyurethane.

5. (Withdrawn) A coating composition of Claims 1 or 2 wherein the directly linkable molecule comprises a moiety selected from the group consisting of an epoxy, amino, hydroxyl, isocyanate, oxazoline, and a carboxyl moiety.

6. (Withdrawn) A composition of Claims 1 or 2 wherein said neutralizing agent is selected from the group consisting of secondary amines, tertiary amines, ammonia, a metal base, a metal carbonate, and a quaternary molecule.

7. (Withdrawn) A composition of Claims 1 or 2 wherein said neutralizing agent reversibly neutralizes the carboxyl groups on the PAA molecule.

8. (Withdrawn) A coating composition of Claims 1 or 2 wherein said composition further comprises an agent selected from the group consisting of a swelling agent, a wetting agent, a coalescing agent, a priming agent and an antifoaming agent.

9. (Withdrawn) A coating composition of Claims 1 or 2 wherein said composition further comprises an a swelling agent, a coalescing agent, and a priming agent.

10. (Withdrawn) A coating composition of Claims 1 or 2 wherein said composition further comprises a swelling agent, a wetting agent, a coalescing agent, a priming agent and an antifoaming agent.

11. (Withdrawn) A coating composition of Claims 1 or 2 wherein said composition further comprises an agent that reduces the surface energy of a coating.

12. (Withdrawn) A coating composition of claims 1 or 2 wherein said composition further comprises a compound comprising fluorine.

13. (Withdrawn) A coating composition of Claims 1 or 2 wherein said composition further comprises PTFE.

14. (Previously presented) A coating composition of Claim 2, wherein one of the two other molecules is another molecule of the cross-linker.

15. (Currently amended) A coating composition of Claim 2, wherein the composition further comprises said molecule other than the PAA [[a cross-linkable molecule, said cross-linkable molecule linkable to the cross-linker]].

16. (Currently amended) A coating composition of Claim 15, wherein the cross-linkable molecule is selected from the group consisting of a [[functionalized]] siloxane, a [[functionalized]] polysiloxane, an amine, a polyamine-imine, an oxazoline, a polyoxazoline, and a [[functionalized]] polyurethane.

17. (Previously presented) A coating composition of Claim 15 wherein the cross-linkable molecule comprises a moiety selected from the group consisting of an epoxy, amino, hydroxyl, isocyanate, oxazoline, and a carboxyl moiety.

18. (Currently amended) A coating composition comprising a polyamide-imide (PAI) [[PAI]] linked to at least one molecule other than a PAA or PAI.

19. (Currently amended) A coating composition of Claim 18, wherein the cross-linkable molecule is selected from the group consisting of a [[functionalized]] siloxane, a

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[[functionalized]] polysiloxane, an amine, a polyamine-imine, an oxazoline, a polyoxozaline, and a [[functionalized]] polyurethane

20. (Previously presented) A coating of Claim 18 wherein said at least one molecule other than a PAA comprises a moiety selected from the group consisting of an epoxy, amino, hydroxyl, isocyanate, oxazoline, and a carboxyl moiety

21. (Withdrawn) A coating of Claims 18, 19 or 20 wherein said composition further comprises an agent that reduces the surface energy of the coating.

22. (Withdrawn) A coating of Claims 18, 19 or 20 wherein said composition further comprises a compound comprising fluorine.

23. (Withdrawn) A coating of Claims 18, 19 or 20 wherein said composition further comprises a PTFE.

24. (Previously presented) A coating prepared from a coating composition of Claims 1 or 2.

25. (Withdrawn) An article of manufacture comprising a coating of Claims 18, 19 or 20.

26. (Withdrawn) An article of manufacture comprising a coating of Claims 18, 19 or 20, said article being an industrial fabric.

27. (Withdrawn) An article of manufacture comprising a coating of Claims 18, 19 or 20, wherein said article of manufacture fabric is a papermaking machine fabric.

28. (Withdrawn) An article of manufacture comprising a coating of Claims 18, 19 or 20, wherein said article of manufacture fabric is a through-air-dryer fabric.

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29. (Withdrawn) An article of manufacture comprising a coating of Claims 18, 19 or 20, wherein said article of manufacture fabric is a dryer fabric.

30. (Withdrawn) An article of manufacture comprising a coating of Claims 18, 19 or 20, wherein said article of manufacture fabric is a press fabric.

31. (Withdrawn) An article of manufacture comprising a coating of Claims 18, 19 or 20, wherein said article of manufacture fabric is a press fabric, wherein the press fabric comprises nylon.

32. (Withdrawn) An article of manufacture comprising a coating of Claims 18, 19 or 20, wherein said article of manufacture fabric is a forming fabric.

33. (Withdrawn) A process of coating an article of manufacture, said process comprising the use of a composition of Claim 1.

34. (Withdrawn) A process of Claim 33 comprising the steps of

- (1) coating the article with the composition;
- (2) removing the water from the composition;
- (3) increasing the temperature so as to volatilize the neutralizing agent;
- (4) maintaining or increasing the temperature for step (3) until the PAA links to the directly linkable molecule; and
- (5) maintaining or increasing the temperature for step (4) until at least some of the remaining amide-amic acid units in the PAA convert to amide-imide units.

35. (Withdrawn) A process of Claim 34 wherein in step (5) or a subsequent step all the remaining amide-amic acid units in the PAA are converted to amide-imide units.

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36. (Withdrawn) A process of coating an article of manufacture, said process comprising the use of a composition of Claim 2.

37. (Withdrawn) A process of Claim 36 comprising the steps of

- (1) coating the article with the composition;
- (2) removing the water from the composition;
- (3) increasing the temperature so as to volatilize the neutralizing agent;
- (4) maintaining or increasing the temperature for step (3) until the PAA links to the crosslinker and the crosslinker links to the crosslinkable molecule; and
- (5) maintaining or increasing the temperature for step (4) until any remaining amide-amic acid units in the PAA convert to amide-imide units.

38. (Withdrawn) A process of Claim 37 wherein in step (5) or a subsequent step all the remaining amide-amic acid units in the PAA are converted to amide-imide units.

39. (Withdrawn) A process of Claims 33, 34, 36 or 37 wherein the article of manufacture is an industrial fabric.

40. (Withdrawn) A process of Claims 33, 34, 36 or 37 wherein the article of manufacture is a papermaking machine fabric.

41. (Withdrawn) A process of Claims 33, 34, 36 or 37 wherein the article of manufacture is a through-air dryer fabric.

42. (Withdrawn) A process of Claims 33, 34, 36 or 37 wherein the article of manufacture is a dryer fabric.

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43. (Withdrawn) A process of Claims 33, 34, 36 or 37 wherein the article of manufacture is a press fabric.

44. (Withdrawn) A process of Claims 33, 34, 36 or 37 wherein the article of manufacture is a forming fabric.

45. (Withdrawn) A process of making paper, said process comprising the use of a papermaking machine fabric, wherein said fabric was coated by a process comprising the composition of Claims 1 or 2.

46. (Withdrawn) A process of making paper, said process comprising the use of a papermaking machine fabric, wherein said fabric was coated by a process comprising the composition of Claims 1 or 2, and wherein said fabric is a through-air-dryer-fabric.

47. (Withdrawn) A process of making paper, said process comprising the use of a papermaking machine fabric, wherein said fabric comprises a coating of Claims, 18, 19, or 20.

48. (Withdrawn) A process of making paper, said process comprising the use of a through-air-dryer machine fabric, wherein said fabric comprises a coating of Claims, 18, 19, or 20.

49. (Withdrawn) A process of making paper, said process comprising the use of a through-air dryer machine fabric, said fabric comprising a coating, said coating comprising a polymer.